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CHARLES F. MILLS.

Born May 29, 1834. Died December 9, 1915.

Died, at 1:00 o'clock Thursday afternoon, December 9, 1915, at Springfield Hospital, after two months' illness, Col. Charles F. Mills, of Springfield, at the age of 72 years, 6 months and 10 days.

Funeral services were held December 11, at 2:30 o'clock at the First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Donald C. MacLeod, the pastor, officiating. Private interment was made in the family lot at Oak Ridge Cemetery.

The following acted as pall-bearers: Major Edward S. Johnson and Dr. Edward P. Bartlett for the Grand Army of the Republic; Ralph N. Baker and Lewis Miller for the Session of the First Presbyterian Church; Albert Rankin for the Deacons; Stuart Brown for the trustees of the same, and Prof. Fred N. Rankin, assistant dean of school of agriculture, University of Illinois.

A strenuous life was ended when Colonel Mills died. Known during the last few years of his life principally as editor of *The Farm Home*, he leaves a diversified record extending over a period of nearly forty years. Farmer, soldier, physician, agriculturalist and fine stock breeder, editor and Republican politician, he gained local and some time national importance in each of his successive roles.

His surprising energy and activity subsided only when ill-health had weakened his body.

Besides other interests and organizations, the Masonic and Odd Fellows fraternities are deprived of a member in his death. He was a member of Elwood Commandery of Knights Templar, Springfield Chapter and Tyrian Lodge No. 333, A. F. & A. M., and also of the G. A. R., Sons of the American Revolution and Illinois State Historical Society.

The major portion of Colonel Mills' very busy life was devoted to agricultural affairs. He acquired national prominence soon after the publication of his periodical, *The Farm Home*, and was the virtual head of the livestock exhibit at the World's Fairs in Chicago, St. Louis and the Panama-Pacific Exposition.

At the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 he was made secretary of the livestock department and was looked upon by Illinois as the official representative of the State in that department.

Management of *The Farm Home* was retained by him until several months ago, when ill health forced him to what he declared temporary relaxation. The first number of the magazine was issued in 1890, with Colonel Mills as editor and publisher. His previous knowledge and experience as farmer and breeder of improved stock, brought him closely in touch with his readers and obtained for him authority among farmers and breeders of the country. This fact is sufficiently attested by his selection and appointment to various offices and positions of responsibility. A partial list is here given:

Secretary of the Sangamon County Fair; chief clerk, assistant secretary and secretary of the Illinois State Fair; secretary of the American Livestock Association and the American Fat Stock Show; secretary of the Illinois Department of Agriculture; chief clerk for the secretary of livestock show, Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893; secretary for chief, department of the livestock, Universal Exposition at St. Louis in 1904; secretary and president of the American Berkshire Association; secretary of the American Clydesdale Association; president of the American Ancestral Association; secretary of the American Association; one of the livestock herd-book secretaries; member of the American Breeders' Association; the American Short-Horn Association, and the American Shire Horse Association; secretary of the American Berkshire Congress, etc.

To Colonel Mills also belonged the honor of drafting and securing the passage of the bill which created the Illinois Farmers' Institute, of which he was secretary for several years. Prominent in the organization of the commission of the Illi-

nois Hall of Fame, Agricultural College, University of Illinois, he was named as its first secretary.

As editor he was associated in the publication of reports of the livestock shows of the two world's fairs; year-book of the American Clydesdale Association; and the American Berkshire Association, and of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and many other similar bodies.

Charles Francis Mills was born in Montrose, Pennsylvania, on May 29, 1834, the son of Bartlet Hinds and Delia (Halsey) Mills. Coming west to this State in boyhood, he had reached his senior year in Shurtleff College, Upper Alton, when war was declared by President Lincoln.

Young Mills left school before graduation and joined the federal forces as private in Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Illinois Volunteers. In 1863 he was promoted to the position of hospital steward, United States Army, which office he held when peace was restored. Severing his official connection with the military forces, he entered the Bryant & Stratton Commercial College at Chicago. He later studied medicine.

On May 26, 1869, he married Miss Mary Elizabeth Bennett, near Springfield, and several years later he moved to Springfield. Mrs. Mills preceded him in death a number of years.

The appellation of colonel was bestowed upon Mr. Mills through his service in the Illinois National Guard, of which he was at one time assistant adjutant general. At various other times he was known as captain and adjutant of the Fifth Infantry; major and quartermaster of the Second Brigade, and lastly colonel and assistant adjutant general. He was also a prominent leader in the Sons of the American Revolution.

Soon after coming to Springfield Colonel Mills formed a connection with the First Presbyterian Church. One of the leading members of the congregation, he also was active in the work of the Sunday School. Until lately he was teacher of a young ladies' class.

As survivors Colonel Mills leaves two daughters, Mrs. M. M. Elkin and Mrs. C. C. Craig of Los Angeles, California, a grandson, Wellman Mills of Los Angeles, California, the son of a deceased son, William Mills; one brother, Henry E. Mills, and one sister, Miss Ruth C. Mills, both of San Diego, California.